

## **Tempe Encourages Motorists and Bicyclists to Share the Road**

It's 8 a.m. and you're about to get ready to commute to work. You get in your 20-pound vehicle that coincidentally doesn't have any doors. No, it's not a new type of car, but rather a bicycle.

Each day, more than 3 percent of Tempe residents commute to work by bike. As a motorist, there are certain laws and safety tips that relate to sharing the road with bicyclists. After all, would you want someone speeding by you at 40 miles per hour with only 12 inches between you? Bicyclists and motorists should treat each other with courtesy and respect by safely sharing the road.

Passed in 2000, Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 28-735 states that motorists must provide a distance of at least 3 feet when passing a bicyclist. Fines for violating ARS 28-735 can be up to \$500.

"The 3-foot campaign is essential in creating a safe and accessible biking environment in Tempe," said Ryan Guzy, Tempe Bicycle Action Group President. "I hope this law increases awareness among drivers that endangerment of cyclists is a crime. "

Over the next year, the city of Tempe Public Works and Police departments in conjunction with Tempe Bicycle Action Group, local schools and the Tempe Transportation Commission are partnering to promote bicycle and motor vehicle safety. The goal of this education campaign is to bring awareness to preventing bicycle/pedestrian and vehicle collisions.

"This is an important campaign for the city of Tempe and its partners," said Public Works Director Don Bessler. "Promoting and providing safe transportation options to our residents improves the quality of life in Tempe for everyone."

So whether you are taking a road trip or just heading down the street to the grocery store, it's always a good idea to remember to drive safely. When you are out and about in your car, please also remember these tips.

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Obey the speed limits.
- Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians. Did you know that if there is not a designated bike lane, a bicyclist is permitted to ride in the travel lane just like a car? Be courteous and pass safely, even if it means changing lanes.
- Don't text or talk on your cell phone.
- Use turn signals to indicate your intention to turn or change lanes.
- When a light turns green, make sure the intersection is clear before you go.
- Don't drink and drive.
- When approaching a METRO light rail crossing:
  - never stop or park your car on light rail tracks.

- obey all traffic signals. A red arrow means “do not turn.”
- never try to beat a train through an intersection.
- look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns.
- look both ways before crossing the tracks.
- Be aware of what’s going on around you.
- Provide bicyclists 3 feet of space when passing.

Source: [teendriving.com](http://teendriving.com) and [valleymetro.org](http://valleymetro.org)

As a bicyclist, there are also certain laws and safety tips that pertain to sharing the road with motorists. After all, safety is a two-way street. When riding a bicycle, please remember these simple tips.

- Ride on the right with the flow of traffic. Riding against traffic can be dangerous as drivers may not see you.
- Wear a helmet.
- Obey traffic signals, signs and laws.
- When possible, ride in the bike lane. You may leave the bike lane to avoid hazards or to make a left hand turn.
- Use hand signals.
- Follow lane markings.
- Be aware of what’s going on around you.
- Wear bright colored clothing.
- Use a light at night.
- When approaching a METRO light rail crossing:
  - never try to beat the train.
  - never stop on the tracks.
  - be alert when near the tracks.
  - look for flashing headlights and listen for warning bells and horns.
  - look both ways before crossing the tracks.

To get more information about vehicular and bicycle safety, follow Tempe on Twitter or Facebook or visit [www.tempe.gov/tim](http://www.tempe.gov/tim).